

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Wedge at 6:04 PM. The following members were present:

Ms. Sylvia Wedge, Chair	Mrs. Terri Cortvriend, Clerk	Mrs. Marge Levesque
Mr. Richard Carpenter, V. Chair	Mr. Jamie Heaney	Mr. Douglas Wilkey
	Mr. Michael Buddemeyer	

Also Present: Dr. Lusi, Assistant Superintendent Jermain, Christine Tague, Patti Cofield

A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Law 42-46-5, Exceptions (a)(1) Job Performance/Personnel Matters, (a)(2) Collective Bargaining and/or Litigation; or (a)(8) Student Discipline. So voted 7-0.

Public Session recessed at 6:05 PM and resumed at 7:25 PM.

1. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Ms. Wedge reported that an Executive Session was held, and no votes were taken. A motion was made by Mrs. Cortvriend and seconded by Mr. Carpenter to seal the minutes. So voted 7-0. Ms. Wedge announced that she appointed Mrs. Cortvriend to the Portsmouth United Group. In addition, she reported that a Facilities Subcommittee has been formed to work with Mr. Don Davidson, our new Facilities Supervisor; and Mr. Buddemeyer will be the chair of that subcommittee. She also announced that the Portsmouth High School Music Boosters are starting a fundraiser for band uniforms.
2. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Dr. Lusi reported that the Commissioner's decision regarding the closing of Prudence Island School was received this week, and she read from the decision. She announced that on Tuesday, October 18th, a conference on Funding Rhode Island's Future is being held at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence. Dr. Lusi reported that she sent a newsletter entitled, "Parents Have Homework, Too," home with students and out on her listserv. Additional newsletters will be coming out in the future regarding curriculum and the reasons behind the various assessments in an effort to help parents better understand our effort in teaching and learning. She announced that the Portsmouth Public Education Foundation's Fall Social is being held on Thursday, October 11th, at 6:00 PM, at Green Valley Country Club. She also announced that Cindy Perry was named the AFA Chapter 180, Newport Blue & Gold Teacher of the Year for 2005-2006. Because of staffing changes in the AFA Chapter, the School Department was only recently notified of this award. Dr. Lusi reported that Open Houses and Curriculum Nights have been completed, and she and Mrs. Jermain attended most of them. She announced that Facilities Tours have been scheduled on October 23rd and 30th at 6:00 PM. She has asked Mr. Davidson to highlight work that has been accomplished over the summer and to prioritize needs he sees in the buildings.

Dr. Lusi announced that Item 3 is being withdrawing from the agenda and will be presented on a future agenda.

- a) **Teaching and Learning:** Assistant Superintendent Jermain reported that the NECAP Assessments are underway in all of the buildings right now. She explained that the NECAPs are State assessments that we are obligated to take every year in October to assess the previous year's learning. The results come back in January, and parents will get copies of the reports. Mrs. Jermain reported that the IT team has been very busy working on SchoolMax, the new Student Information System. They are still in the middle of converting all the data over to SchoolMax, and the State is starting to harvest information. She announced that Grade 5 band starts this week; and we have one teacher from PMS and one from PHS who will help in the instruction of the band. She thanked Doreen Phillips for spearheading the scheduling, as well as Donna Valente, Karen Anghinetti, Shawna Gleason, and Jamie Caromile.
- b) **Finance and Operations:** Ms. Tague announced that the 2006 audit will begin at the end of this week in addition to the audit being initiated by the Town. She stated that four responses to the Request for Proposals were received, and the Town narrowed it down to two companies. The interviews are being held on October 16th. Ms. Tague also reported that forms for Impact Aid will be going out soon, in conjunction with Middletown and Newport.
- c) **High School Liaison:** Absent.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held September 25, 2007. This item was removed from the agenda.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Jack Callahan requested that Item 5e be withdrawn from the Consent Agenda and moved to the Business Agenda.

- a) **General School Aide Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee accepts the resignation of Diane Costa, General School Aide at Hathaway School, effective immediately."
- b) **General School Aide Resignation.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee accepts the resignation of Karen Giblin, General School Aide at Hathaway School, effective immediately."

- c) **Appt. – General School Aide, Hathaway.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #1-10/9/07, to the position of General School Aide at Hathaway School, effective immediately."
- d) **Appt. – General School Aide, Hathaway.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the Superintendent's appointment, Recommendation #2-10/9/07, to the position of General School Aide at Hathaway School, effective immediately."
- e) **Coaching Appts. – PHS.** The Superintendent recommends adoption of the following resolution, "that the Committee affirms the coaching appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2007-08 school year as presented."

A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve Items a) through d) on the Consent Agenda. So voted 7-0. Dr. Lusi announced the appointments of Madeline Wilding and Melanie Bulpett as General School Aides at Hathaway School.

5. **BUSINESS AGENDA**

Item e) was moved from the Consent Agenda:

- e) **Coaching Appts. – PHS.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpenter to approve the coaching appointments at Portsmouth High School for the 2007-08 school year as presented. Seconded by Mr. Heaney. Mr. Jack Callahan asked if prior to tonight's Executive Session, if any member of the School Committee had been involved with Administration on any of the coaching appointments. Mr. Carpenter stated that he asked the Superintendent to have the discussion in Executive Session. Mr. Callahan stated that he was going to file a complaint with the Ethics Commission. The motion passed 7-0. Dr. Lusi announced the following coaching appointments:

Jeff Goss, Head Coach, Girls Basketball
Peg Prior, Assistant Coach, Girls Basketball
Donna Ricci, Assistant Coach, Girls Basketball
Mike Lunney, Head Coach, Boys Basketball
Ryan Moniz, Assistant Coach, Boys Basketball
Joe Occhi, Assistant Coach, Boys Basketball
Cybil Pacheco, Head Coach, Gymnastics
Shannon Farrell, Assistant Coach, Gymnastics
Tom Farrea, Head Coach, Ice Hockey
Dan Eagan, Assistant Coach, Ice Hockey
Andy Farrea, Volunteer, Ice Hockey
Travis Holmes, Volunteer, Ice Hockey
Matt Hammatt, Volunteer, Ice Hockey
Shaun Horgan, Head Coach, Boys Indoor Track

Regular Business Agenda:

- a) **Agenda Item Request – Portsmouth Youth Basketball League.** Requested by Jeff Swider. Mr. Carpenter made a motion that the Superintendent recommends that the Portsmouth Youth Basketball League receives an additional discount of 15 percent from the normal 50 percent fee it would pay for building use as a non-profit organization. This additional discount is for one year only in consideration of the fact that this is the start-up year for the League. These discounts are for building use only and are exclusive of the fees paid for custodial services. The Superintendent further recommends that the School Committee adds language similar to that outlined below when it revises its building use policy: A non-profit Youth Organization that is in a start-up position and is seeking the use of school facilities may apply for an additional 15 percent reduction in the rental cost of the facilities if they meet the following criteria:

1. The Organization must be formalized and have a set of Officers and a Board of Directors.
2. The 15 percent reduction will apply only to the first year of operation.
3. There is a reasonable expectation that the planned activity will continue for multiple years.
4. A reasonable number of Event Monitors must be submitted and approved by the Facilities Manager or Superintendent.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend. Mr. Heaney inquired as to how the additional 15 percent was established. Mr. Carpenter explained that he spoke with Dr. Lusi, and he looked through the organization's budget. He thought it was fair to try to do something for them, keeping in mind that the Committee has fiduciary responsibilities. Mr. Heaney stated that only groups from Portsmouth should receive this type of additional discount. Dr. Lusi stated that the language will be established in a Policy Subcommittee meeting. The motion passed 7-0.

- b) **Report on Portsmouth United Organization.** Mrs. Marianne Raymo gave a presentation on the Portsmouth United Organization. The group is filing to become their own 501(c)3. The founding groups are the three elementary PTOs, the PMS PTO, the PHS Athletic Boosters, and the PHS Music Boosters. Mrs. Raymo stated that this is just a federal tax filing and that each group will still be their own corporation. Dr. Lusi thanked Mrs. Raymo and the others for working on this. Mrs. Raymo is a CPA and did most of the paperwork. She is also on the Executive Committee for the Melville Fall Festival, which is being held on October 20th. Mrs. Raymo stated that the board members of Portsmouth United are also board members of the subordinate groups. They are not paid for their service.

- c) **Agenda Item Request – Change of Bus Route.** Requested by Mrs. Janine Stebbins. Representatives from King's Grant and Laidlaw were present. Mrs. Stebbins spoke on behalf of the parents of the PMS students who live in King's Grant. She lives at 76 Thayer Drive, and there are 11 families in their neighborhood who have removed their students from the bus because the bus was full beyond seating capacity. In addition, there was harassment, verbal, and physical abuse. There is a bus that drives through King's Grant from an adjacent neighborhood that provides a good temporary solution; however, they feel they have the right to have the original established route for Bus 13. Mrs. Stebbins stated that there are 63 homes with 70 children in King's Grant, and they should be provided with adequate bus service. Mr. Sandy Takacs of 29 Cromwell Drive referred to a letter he sent to the School Committee on September 24th. Mrs. Cathy Hadad of 81 McBride Drive stated that reinstating Bus 22 was an unacceptable alternative, and that it's unacceptable to divide their neighborhood. She stated that the Laidlaw contract states that students should have fair, equitable, and safe transportation. Much discussion took place regarding alternative solutions. Mr. Heaney made a motion that any interested parties in King's Grant, Dr. Lusi, and the bus company get together, form a plan, and report back to the School Committee at the next meeting. Second by Mr. Wilkey. So voted 7-0.
- d) **Report on Medicaid Receipts and Approval of Transfer of Funds.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve the transfer of \$225,000 of Medicaid receipts for use as revenue for the 2007-08 operating budget. So voted 7-0. DC made a motion to approve the proposed budget adjustments as presented. So voted 7-0.
- f) **Approval of 2007-08 Budget Adjustments.** A motion was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mrs. Cortvriend to approve the proposed 2007-08 budget adjustments as presented. So voted 7-0.

6. **SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA**

- a) **Finance:** No report.
- b) **Policy:** Mrs. Levesque will discuss potential meeting dates with the Administration.
- c) **Gymnasium Construction Oversight Committee (GCOC)**
 - 1) **Approval of Progress Payment.** A motion was made by Mrs. Cortvriend and seconded by Mr. Wilkey to approve the payment of Invoice #05-095-00017 from Advanced Building Concepts in the amount of \$10,970.08. So voted 7-0.

- d) **Prudence Island School Working Committee:** Mr. Carpender stated that a meeting is scheduled for this Saturday.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Carpender and seconded by Mr. Heaney. So voted 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patti Cofield
Recording Secretary for

Terri Cortvriend, Clerk